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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/475,062	12/30/1999	CORNELIUS V. VICK	042390.P5404	3144

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EXAMINER

FIELDS, COURTNEY D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2137

12

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/475,062

Applicant(s)

VICK ET AL.

Examiner

Courtney D. Fields

Art Unit

2137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-30 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection, Howard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,678,731).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Howard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,678,731).

Referring to claims 1,13,24 Howard et al. discloses a system and method for web server user authentication comprising: receiving a request to connect a valid user,

creating a user password cookie using a shared secret key and transmitting the user password cookie in response to the request in Column 7, lines 1-46.

Referring to claims 2, 14, and 26, Howard et al. discloses the claimed limitation of reading a user credential cookie, requesting a user ID and password, receiving the user ID and password, and validating the user's identity in Column 7, lines 48-67, Column 8, lines 1-16.

Referring to claims 3 and 15, Howard et al. discloses the claimed limitation of authenticating the user ID and password with the user profile information stored within the cookie in Column 5, lines 48-67, Column 6, lines 1-27.

Referring to claims 4 and 16, Howard et al. discloses the claimed limitation of an operating system in Figure 2 and Column 4, lines 52-56.

Referring to claims 5, 7, 17, 23, and 29, Howard et al. discloses the claimed limitation of combining the user ID and password with a time stamp (cookie) and encrypting the cookie using a key in Column 8, lines 18-41.

Referring to claims 6 and 18, Howard et al. discloses the claimed limitation of obtaining the user password cookie, verifying that the user password cookie is valid, and updating the user password cookie using the key in Column 7, lines 48-67, Column 8, lines 1-8.

Referring to claims 8 and 28, Howard et al. discloses the claimed limitation of having a group of web servers sharing a key in Column 7, lines 33-39.

Referring to claims 9 and 19, Howard et al. discloses the claimed limitation of authenticating a second valid user requesting access to the web server in Column 3,

lines 25-32. According to the invention, it is implied that multiple users can be authenticated when requesting access to the web server.

Referring to claims 10-12, 20-22 and 30 are rejected under Claim 1. According to the invention, multiple users can be authenticated and provided access to multiple servers in Column 2, lines 15-26, group of web servers in Column 3, lines 21-24, updating the user password cookie in Column 7, lines 27-31.

Referring to claim 25, Howard et al. discloses the claimed limitation of receiving, by a web server, a request to connect to a user to the web server, determining if the user is valid, if not, then the user is denied, if valid, then if a valid user password cookie exists, then updating the user password cookie using a key, if no cookie exists, then generating a user password cookie, transmitting the user password cookie to the user and connecting the web server to the user in Column 7, lines 1-67, Column 8, lines 1-41.

Referring to claim 27, Howard et al. discloses the claimed limitation of obtaining the user password cookie, verifying that the user password cookie is valid, if the user password cookie is valid, then the user is valid, if the user password cookie is not valid, then the user is not valid in Column 9, lines 10-56.

Referring to claim 31, Howard et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the shared secret key is used by a communication ring comprising a plurality of web servers in Column 3, lines 21-26.

Referring to claim 32, Howard et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein the computer program, which when executed by the processor unit further configures the

computer system for connecting the user to the computer system in Column 6, lines 28-57.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Courtney D. Fields whose telephone number is 703-305-8293. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thu 7:00 - 5:00 pm; off every Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory Morse can be reached on 703-308-4789. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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July 10, 2004

Matthew D. Smithers
MATTHEW SMITHERS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 2137